



SBA DISASTER NEWS

Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U.S. Small Business Administration – Area 3 Disaster Office – 14925 Kingsport Road – Fort Worth, TX 76155 – 1-800-366-6303

DATE: August 20, 2003
Numbered Release: 03-258

CONTACT: Michael Lampton
817-868-2300

SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

FORT WORTH, TX -- Businesses in some Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming counties can now apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans are available to help businesses meet normal operating expenses that cannot be met due to the effects of a disaster. Drought, extreme heat, grasshopper infestation, and high winds, that occurred from July 1, 2002, and continuing, caused many farmers and ranchers to experience reduced incomes which may have had an adverse economic effect on businesses depending upon these producers. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for this loan program but may be eligible for disaster assistance through other Federal agencies. However, nurseries that are victims of drought disasters can apply. Businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply:

Nebraska:

Adams	Clay	Grant	Kimball	Rock
Antelope	Custer	Greeley	Knox	Scotts Bluff
Arthur	Dawes	Hall	Lincoln	Sheridan
Blaine	Dawson	Hamilton	Logan	Sherman
Banner	Deuel	Harlan	Loup	Sioux
Boone	Dundy	Hayes	McPherson	Thayer
Box Butte	Fillmore	Hitchcock	Merrick	Thomas
Boyd	Franklin	Holt	Morrill	Valley
Brown	Frontier	Hooker	Nance	Webster
Buffalo	Furnas	Howard	Nuckolls	Wheeler
Chase	Garden	Kearney	Perkins	
Cherry	Garfield	Keith	Phelps	
Cheyenne	Gosper	Keya Paha	Red Willow	

Colorado:

Logan	Phillips	Sedgwick	Weld	Yuma
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Kansas:

Cheyenne
Decatur

Jewell
Norton

Phillips
Rawlins

Republic
Smith

South Dakota:

Bennett
Charles Mix

Fall River
Gregory

Shannon
Todd

Tripp

Wyoming:

Goshen

Laramie

Niobrara

To obtain an application or receive additional information, interested business owners may call the SBA toll-free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired. The deadline for filing an application is **January 14, 2004.**

Due to the weather, many producers experienced crop losses and were not able to purchase goods and services at normal levels. Businesses that are dependent upon these producers may have experienced decreased sales, reduced gross profit margins, increased accounts receivable or difficulty in moving inventories at normal levels. The loan can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this program. The loan is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster-related needs and is intended to supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans may be approved for up to \$1,500,000 for actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are three and one half percent (3.50%) and terms may extend to thirty (30) years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant. To qualify, businesses must be small by SBA's size standard. Businesses which can meet their financial needs through other sources are not eligible.

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For more information about the SBA Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/disaster.